Response to Office Action of 12/10/2008
Atty. Docket No. TAN-354
Yokoyama *et al.*

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for ~~concentration of~~ <u>recovering</u> fine particles dispersed in an aqueous medium comprising, adding an ionic liquid, which does not dissolve substantially a dispersing aqueous medium, to the aqueous medium containing fine particles, wherein the amount of the ionic liquid b mL to be added to 10mL of the aqueous medium containing said fine particles by a mM dispersing concentration is in the range so as the ratio a/b ~~to be at least~~ <u>is</u> $0.05 \leq a/b < 1.0$, and transferring said fine particles from said aqueous medium to the ionic liquid ~~and concentrating the fine particles into said ionic liquid~~.
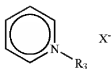
2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently amended) The method for ~~concentration of~~ <u>recovering</u> fine particles dispersed in the aqueous medium of claim 1, wherein the ionic liquid is an ionic liquid which is liquid at room temperature.

4.   (Currently amended) The method for ~~concentration of~~ <u>recovering</u> fine particles dispersed in the aqueous medium of claim 3, wherein the ionic liquid is an organic ionic liquid.

5.   (Currently amended) The method for ~~concentration of~~ <u>recovering</u> fine particles dispersed in the aqueous medium of claim 4, wherein the organic ionic liquid is selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by following formulae 1,

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formulae 1

a.

X^-

b.

X^-

c.

$[NR^4_nH_{4-n}]^+$ X^-

wherein, R_3 and R^4 are an alkyl group of carbon number 1-7, n is an integer of 1-3, R_1 is an alkyl group which can possess a substitution group of carbon number 1-7, X^- is selected from the group consisting of PF_6^-, BF_4^-, NO_3^-, $(CF_3SO_3)_2N^-$, $TFSI^-$, Cl^- and SO_3H^-.

Claims 6-11 (Canceled)